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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sept 21, 2017

Dear Governor Rosselló:

In this moment of catastrophic crisis, I write to share my unconditional support for you and your efforts for our beloved Puerto Rico. I have watched your response to this unprecedented disaster and want to express my gratitude to you and your government for your swift and competent leadership so far.

There is nothing I want more than the Island's speedy recovery from the historic devastation of Hurricane Maria and that you, your government and the people of Puerto Rico get all the help they need and deserve. Whatever I can do to help Puerto Ricans find safety, fresh food, clean water, electricity and assistance to rebuild their lives, homes and businesses, please call on me.

Yesterday I sent a letter to President Trump urging him to aggressively marshal and coordinate all federal resources available to the Island as quickly as humanly possible. I have included a copy of that letter here. Given Puerto Rico's financial crisis, I believe the federal government should waive any cost sharing obligation normally expected of a state or territory after a hurricane. I'm also concerned about the lack of clean water, the potential spread of disease, and the plight of those most vulnerable, like the elderly. Puerto Rico does not have easy access to the assistance of first responders and volunteers due to its geographic distance from the mainland and we must ensure that our federal government provides emergency communications and assistance in Spanish. These are all things the federal government can and must do to help Puerto Rico and I am committed to helping ensure FEMA and its agency partners follow through.

My thoughts and prayers are with you, your government and the people of Puerto Rico. Thank you for all that you are doing to help Puerto Ricans face this unprecedented disaster. I stand ready to help you in any way I can, so please do not hesitate to call on me if there is anything you need or you think I can do to help.

In Solidarity,



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress